

Next we will convene a set of public forums around the country over the next several months to hear the concerns of journalists as well as other interested individuals. The forums should reiterate two simple messages: that journalists of all generations are concerned about the direction of the profession; and that they want to clarify their purpose and principles. We do not presume to enumerate those principles here, but hope to have them articulated through the forums. These sessions, will include the public. We will publish an interim report after each one. At their conclusion, the group will release a final report that will attempt to define the enduring purpose of journalism, along with its principles, responsibilities and aspirations.

We see this as a beginning, a catalyst forging new ideas and a renewed spirit of conviction. We plan to carry the dialogue forward with a web site, videotapes of the forums and through other means. We do not intend to propose a set of solutions; this is an attempt to clarify our common ground. Nor is our motive to develop a detailed code of conduct; if journalism is a set of aims, how we fulfill them should change with changing times and be left to each news organization to decide. But if journalism is to survive, it falls to individual journalists, especially in each new generation, to articulate what it stands for.

CHILD CARE CRISIS

HON. MARGE ROUKEMA

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, it is a sad reality that today's headlines are filled with stories that spring from the everyday struggle of working families to secure safe and dependable child care. The startling reality is the daily struggle of working women and men to secure affordable and safe child care.

The trends in society and the American workforce are clear. More families have both parents working. In today's society, many families need to have two parents working just to make ends meet. A 1995 study by the Families and Work Institute found that 55 percent of the women interviewed contributed half or more of their household income. Three out of five women with children under age 6 are working, and must find someone to care for their children.

That burden is a heavy one and becomes even more burdensome when reliable, quality child care is not available.

Mr. Speaker, President Clinton has correctly identified child care as a growing American crisis—a crisis that affects both the quality of our citizens' work and the quality of their lives. However, I regret that Mr. Clinton's broad prescription implies a centralized government solution to a problem that should be solved in each local community. At a time when this Congress is struggling to complete the task of balancing the budget, the President has proposed a laundry list of tax changes, subsidies, block grants and Washington-driven standards at a cost of nearly \$22 billion. Some of these proposals have merit and deserve extended analysis and debate.

Mr. Speaker, there is another way that is far more feasible and immediately affordable.

The legislation which I am introducing, legislation that will encourage a new public-private

partnership between local school districts and businesses to develop community-based solutions to meet local child care needs. This innovative legislative initiative will be in the form of grants to local education agencies that are able to show the community's needs and commitment to a new child care program.

This legislation does not mandate a Federal program for child care that imposes some Washington-based requirements on local communities. In fact, this bill combines the concept of state and local control of education with the time-tested concept of the public-private partnership. This bill makes it possible for local schools and businesses to work together to create their own program that meets the needs of their own community, whatever they may be.

Specifically, the legislation would create a competitive grant program, administered by the Department of Education. The program would provide one-time start-up grants directly to local school districts to explore and plan child care programs for children up to five years old. Schools would be required to match these grants with private funds. The "seed" money could only be used for planning and implementation of child care programs by local school systems and private businesses, not for construction or building renovation.

My legislation: (1) Creates a competitive grant program administered by the Department of Education; (2) provides a one-time start-up grant directly to school districts; (3) is available for programs providing care for children ages 0 to 5 (or age of compulsory school education); (4) expects a commitment of matching private dollars of 50% of the funding; (5) cannot be used for building construction or renovation.

This is not an untested concept.

My legislation is based on a model program, the "Infant Toddler Development Center," which has operated successfully for more than 15 years in my Congressional District.

It was initiated by Kathy Marino, a teacher/principal in Ridgewood, New Jersey and has attracted much-deserved praise. It is the prototype of the grant proposal I am introducing here today.

We need to help families solve the child care problem. And we need to give local communities the means to put their proposals to the test. If we want our children to get a head start in life, we must improve child care in this nation. Child care must be available and it must be affordable but most of all it must be of high quality, both in terms of safety and educational benefits.

IN MEMORY OF JAMES C. KIRKPATRICK

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I wish to take a moment today to speak about a man of distinguished civic service and professional integrity. Missouri's "Mr. Democrat," James C. "Jimmy" Kirkpatrick, former Missouri Secretary of State, recently passed away at the age of 92.

A native of Braymer, MO, Kirkpatrick graduated from Northeast High School in Kansas

City and Central Missouri State University in Warrensburg, MO. After studying journalism at the University of Missouri, Kirkpatrick became interested in the news business. From 1954 to 1974, Kirkpatrick owned and operated several Missouri newspapers. He started his career at the Warrensburg Daily Star-Journal and rose to be editor of that newspaper. Later, he became editor of the Jefferson City News-Tribune, then purchased the weekly Windsor Review and later the weekly Lamar Democrat, in the town of Harry S. Truman's birth.

While editing the Jefferson City newspaper, Kirkpatrick was approached by then-Governor Forrest Smith to write a newspaper column and speeches for Missouri's chief executive. That is what really got him interested in politics, which became his legacy.

Jimmy Kirkpatrick first ran for statewide office in 1960, when he lost his bid to become Missouri Secretary of State to rising Democrat star Warren Hearnes. He won the job four years later, in 1964, when Hearnes was elected governor. Kirkpatrick was re-elected to his post as Secretary of State until his retirement in 1985. During his tenure, he received 8.4 million votes, making him Missouri's greatest statewide vote-getter since statehood. In his twenty year tenure, Kirkpatrick made over 1900 speeches which kept him very close to the constituents about which he cared so deeply.

In 1985, Kirkpatrick retired to Warrensburg, MO, whereupon he became the statehouse's most familiar booster of Central Missouri State University. In fact, he served for 12 years on the university's Board of Regents, including ten years as its president. Kirkpatrick was also a guest lecturer at CMSU in history, government, political science, and journalism classes. The university recently honored Kirkpatrick by naming its new library after him.

Kirkpatrick's first wife, Jessamine Elizabeth Young, passed away in 1985 after a 58-year marriage. He is survived by his second wife, Doris, one son, three grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and three stepchildren.

Mr. Speaker, Jimmy Kirkpatrick displayed honor and integrity throughout his civic career. His admiration for and dedication to the people of Missouri is unprecedented, and I am certain that the Members of the House will join me in honoring the legacy of Missouri's own "Mr. Democrat."

TRIBUTE TO MARGARET BROCK

HON. ALLEN BOYD

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 28, 1998

Mr. BOYD. Mr. Speaker, rarely in my lifetime have I come to know an individual with the character and qualities of my friend who recently passed away, Margaret Brock. My only regret is that I did not know her longer. She was quite a remarkable woman, headstrong and determined to succeed in every endeavor she chose to make her own. She was a self-made millionaire, not that money was what made her rich. It was her heart, her kindness, and her ability to make every stranger feel like family. Ms. Brock will probably be best remembered for giving an ailing hospital new life, in addition to building a much needed nursing home and reviving a children's clinic